

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/629,204

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Applicant(s)

ZAMAN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 4/4/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Geza Ziegler on June 24, 2005.

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: (inserting reference #12 into Figure 1). In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

4. Regarding claim 1, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a system including a controller connectable to an optical sensor for determining a ratio of distinguishable pixels to a total number of pixels in the band, the controller comprising a threshold detector for sensing, based on said ratio, bottom edge wipe manufacturing defects in an OPC device, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 2-10 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

5. Regarding claims 11 and 16, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method including the steps of capturing reflected illumination from at least one illuminated bottom edge area of an OPC device, comparing the captured reflected illumination with at least one threshold level, the step of comparing including a step of determining a ratio of a number of distinguishable pixels to a total number of pixels in a band, and classifying the at least one bottom edge area of the OPC device upon the comparison of the captured reflected illumination with the at least one threshold level, in combination with all the limitations in each respective claim. Claims 12-15 and 17-19 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

6. Regarding claims 20 and 23, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method including the steps of positioning an optical sensor to view an illuminated OPC bottom edge area, and providing a controller connectable to the optical sensor, the controller having a threshold discriminator that determines a ratio of a number of distinguishable pixels to a total number of pixels in a band for classifying the OPC device, in combination with all the limitations in each respective claim. Claims 21 and 22 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

7. Regarding claim 24, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a system including a camera positioned to view a bottom edge wipe region of an OPC device, and a controller for processing picture data of an image, the controller determining a band of pixels having a value of gray-level darkness, and wherein the controller provides a ratio of a number of pixels in the

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image, a magnitude of the ratio serving as a measure of a defect, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claim 25 is allowed by virtue of its dependency.

8. Regarding claim 26, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method including the steps of processing picture data of an image by determining a band of pixels having a value of gray-level darkness, and wherein the processing includes a further step of providing a ratio of a number of pixels in the band to a total number of pixels in the image, a magnitude of the ratio serving as a measure of BEW defects, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claim 27 are allowed by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER